

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, BG, US

SUBJECT: BANGLADESHI AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY DUBS

1. AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI, ACCOMPANIED BY HEAD OF CHANCERY  
MRS. KARIM, CAME IN TO SEE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS  
AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST FEBRUARY 16. COUNTRY OFFICER  
ARCHARD SAT IN ON FIFTY-MINUTE MEETING. WE ASKED SIDDIQI  
TO COME IN PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS A ZIA VISIT, BUT SEVERAL  
OTHER SUBJECTS ALSO WERE RAISED. WE ARE REPORTING BY  
SEPTELS ON PORTIONS DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW OF  
THE SEA.

2. ZIA VISIT: DUBS NOTED THAT THE BDG HAS APPROACHED US  
SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT A VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY PRESIDENT ZIA  
AND WE WANT TO RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS. REGRETTABLY,  
A VISIT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IN 1978 BECAUSE OF VERY HEAVY  
PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE. IN FACT, THE  
PRESIDENT HAS HAD TO DELAY SOME VISITS WHICH HAD EARLIER  
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BEEN PLANNED. WE MUST EXPECT THE MIDEAST TO OCCUPY AN  
IMPORTANT AMOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S TIME IN THE NEXT YEAR  
AND VISITS SUCH AS THOSE BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME  
MINISTER BEGIN TO TAKE PRIORITY. SIDDIQI SAID THAT ZIA IS  
ANXIOUS TO VISIT AND HAD BEEN HOPING FOR A CHANCE TO COME

IN LATE 1978.

3. MRS. LILLIAN CARTER: SIDDIQI ASKED FOR WORD ON THE INVITATION FOR MRS. CARTER TO VISIT BANGLADESH. DUBS TOLD HIM WE WERE POUCHING A LETTER FROM HER TO VICE PRESIDENT SATTAR THAT SAME DAY WHICH WOULD POSTPONE A VISIT BECAUSE OF HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS. HOWEVER, MRS. CARTER HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A VISIT AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

4. MUHAMMAD ALI: SIDDIQI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ALI'S PLANS TO VISIT BANGLADESH WOULD NOT BE CHANGED IN VIEW OF ALI'S LOSS OF THE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE THE NIGHT BEFORE. ARCHARD REPLIED THAT WE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE BDG TO CONTACT ALI TO URGE THAT HE GO THROUGH WITH HIS SCHEDULED VISIT. ARCHARD WOULD KEEP THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY INFORMED.

5. BANGLADESH CHANCERY: SIDDIQI LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH LISTED SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO THE EMBASSY'S SHIFTING ITS CHANCERY TO A BUILDING THE BDG RECENTLY PURCHASED AT 2501 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE. EFFORTS TO ALTER THE BUILDING FOR USE AS A CHANCERY HAVE BEEN MET BY CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION FROM THE NEIGHBORS. SIDDIQI PROMISED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT USE THE NEW BUILDING AS A CHANCERY UNTIL ALL PRIOR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET. THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE WITHDRAWING ITS PREVIOUS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE  
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EMBASSY'S POSITION. DUBS EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS AND PROMISED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE PROTOCOL OFFICE.

6. FORMER PRESIDENT CHOWDHURY ON HUMAN RIGHTS SUB-COMMISSION: FORMER PRESIDENT A. S. CHOWDHURY IS A CANDIDATE FOR A SEAT ON THE SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES. THE BDG SEEKS OUR SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY. DUBS SAID WE WILL LOOK INTO THE MATTER BUT HE WONDERED IF OUR USUAL POLICY OF SUPPORTING CANDIDATES WHO ENJOY A REGIONAL CONSENSUS IS NOT APPLICABLE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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